

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-63 (Canceled).

64. (New): A component management method for product-manufacturing components, for providing optimum components, whose freshness is always kept, for a company and integrally managing information regarding components, by using a component management system comprising a WWW server connected to a terminal used in each section of a company and including an admission criteria file and a trend information file, and a database server including an admitted component database and an improvement/cessation database, said method comprising the steps of:

admission criterion registration step of registering an admission criterion unique to said company in said admission criteria file with the admission criterion converted by an HTML converter of said WWW server into HTML format, each time an admission criterion is input to said WWW server from said terminal in an admission section, the admission criterion including one of admission guideline information, quality/price information regarding a component to be provided, request information from a design section and/or a manufacture section, and component trend information from a manufacturer, all regarding a product-manufacturing component;

trend information registration step of registering trend information in said trend information file with the trend information converted by said HTML converter into HTML format, each time trend information is input to said WWW server from said terminal, the trend information including one of trend in technology, trend in market, recommendation information for each component, and price information; and

component admission information updating step of registering: information regarding an admitted component being stored in said admitted component database, given a component ID unique to said company and satisfying an admission criterion registered in said admission criteria file; and admission information regarding status of the admitted component associated with the information, to the admitted component database, the registering being performed repeatedly and continuously each time the admission of a component is performed, thereby updating the admitted component database, so that the newest admitted component information is always stored in admitted component database.

65. (New): The component management method according to Claim 64, further comprising an improvement/cessation information updating step of updating the improvement/cessation information being unique to said company, stored in said improvement/cessation information database, regarding an admitted component stored in said admitted component database, and including one of component ID unique to said company, component ID employed in the component provider, manufacturer name, provider name, improvement/cessation, improvement/substitute, link to corresponding data in said admitted component database, and URL address of catalogue information or Internet, each time said improvement/cessation information is provided from a provider of the admitted component in e-mail format, to said terminal in said admission section.

66. (New): The component management method according to Claim 64, further comprising an information providing step of said WWW server, retrieving information registered in said admitted component database and said improvement/cessation information database based on a component ID unique to said company, converting, by said HTML converter, the retrieved information into HTML format, and providing the information to said

terminal, and providing said admission criteria file and/or said trend information file which have/has been converted into HTML format to said terminal, in response to a request from said terminal.

67. (New): The component management method according to Claim 64, further comprising:

a component information obtaining step of said database server retrieving component information regarding some components from said admitted component database and/or improvement/cessation database, in accordance with an instruction from said WWW server, the WWW server instruction being based on component information listed in a component list for a design drawing read out from a storage medium in accordance with an instruction signal for creating a component list from said terminal in said design section;

a component information providing step of converting, by said HTML converter, the retrieved component information into HTML format, and providing, by said WWW server, the HTML-converted component information to said terminal in said design section having requested the component information; and

information processing step of displaying, by said terminal in said design section, the component information provided by said WWW server, obtaining a component ID of a designated component and/or its additional information, the component being designated by a click operation or a drag-and-drop operation for designating an arbitrary component from the displayed information, and laying the obtained information in the design drawing or registering the obtained information in an employed component file.

68. (New): The component management method according to Claim 64, further comprising an admitted component information obtaining step of obtaining, by said terminal

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in said design section, the newest admitted component information registered in said admitted component database, via said communication network, wherein said terminal is connected to said database server via a communication network.